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EDITOR'S LETTER

Surely it's not possible? A device that *reduces* noise? I had to hear this for myself… Standing in the soundproof cubicle I could hear, well nothing, just silence, or very close to it when the extractor incorporating Sil-k Act, Active Noise reducing technology was turned on. So, how's it done I wondered?

No, I haven't lost the plot nor am I retraining as a sound engineer (Me? LOL). It's been developed by Faber (of cooker hood fame), in collaboration with Silentium, a market leader in the production of silencing devices. This new technology has now been incorporated into some of the latest extractors including Infinity Act, which has a sleek, double glass-fronted panel and LED lighting.

With the rise and rise of open-plan kitchens, quiet appliances are a real must-have, so if you're planning a living kitchen do keep this in mind. For more expert advice and tips on living kitchens turn to the feature on **page 56**, and also remember to visit **utopiamag.co.uk** to see videos of these and more incredible products.

Jo-Anne Wright, **Managing Editor**

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Front cover This contemporary living kitchen boasts integrated appliances by Sub-Zero & Wolf, including the Sub-Zero All Fridge Column, the All Freezer Column, with a Wolf convection steam oven, and coffee system. **subzero-wolf.co.uk**

Managing Editor
Jo-Anne Wright 01787 221 396
jo@propub.co.uk
Editorial Assistant
Matthew Blair 01787 221 273
matthew@propub.co.uk
Publisher and Managing Director
Clara Perry 01787 221 396
clara@propub.co.uk
Group Sales Manager
Toby Waltham 01787 221 275
toby@propub.co.uk
Sales Executive
Daniel Holliday 01787 221 277
daniel@propub.co.uk
Art Director
Lee Thomas 01787 221 396
lee@propub.co.uk
Graphic Designer
Laura Perry 01787 221 396
design@propub.co.uk
Marketing Manager
Katharine Sheppard 01787 221 278
katharine@propub.co.uk
PA to Managing Director
Diana Szpytma 01787 221 274
diana@propub.co.uk
Contributors Kay Hill, Darren Chung, Owen Collins, Simon Upton, Tony Mitchell

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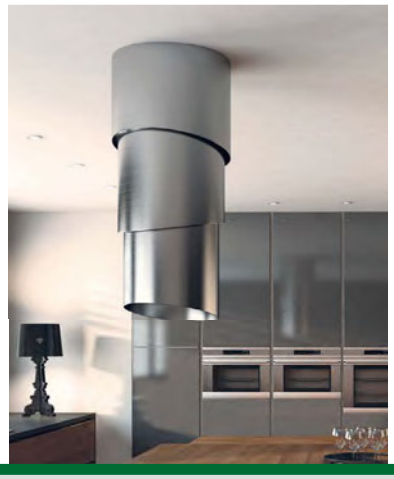

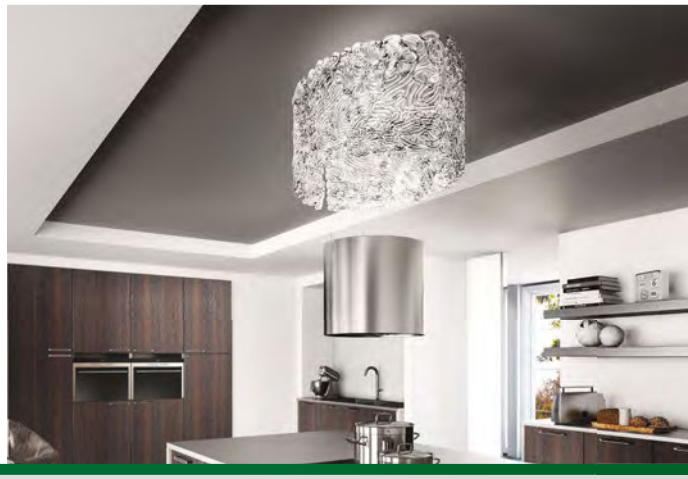

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NEWS

The eco-friendly Artematica Multiline laminate kitchen by Valcucine boasts lightweight doors, which encourage longer hinge life and quiet closing. Available in matt or gloss, in 32 colours, including Ice White, as shown, £90,000. **london.valcucine.com** Visit **utopiamag.co.uk** Kitchens / Latest Products / Artematica Multiline, to see a great video and learn more about this kitchen

NEWS

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smart buy

[**01**] Midnight Blue and Natural Oak kitchen by Neil Lerner Designs, featuring a large island with framed front cupboards and rounded edges, shown in Blue Agate lacquer finish, from £30,000, **neillerner.com** [**02**] Samsung Food Showcase fridge with two layered doors, enabling the user to access frequently used items without disrupting the temperature of the main fridge compartment, around £2,250, **samsung.com/uk/home** [**03**] Crosswater's KH Zero 5 single lever mixer tap designed by Kelly Hoppen, in chrome finish, £249, **crosswater.co.uk/kelly-hoppen** [**04**] Nolte's Contour Lack kitchen cabinetry, designed for open-plan living spaces, from £12,000 including appliances and fitting, **nolte-kuechen.de/en** [**05**] Jardin porcelain square floor or wall tiles by Ann Sacks, from front Negro black, Gris brown and Azur blue, each with a unique pattern, from £140 per square metre, **annsacks.com** [**06**] Beko 100cm Rangecooker, with two fan ovens, multiple burners and separate grill and storage compartments, shown in stainless steel and black finish, also available in full black, from £750, **beko.co.uk**

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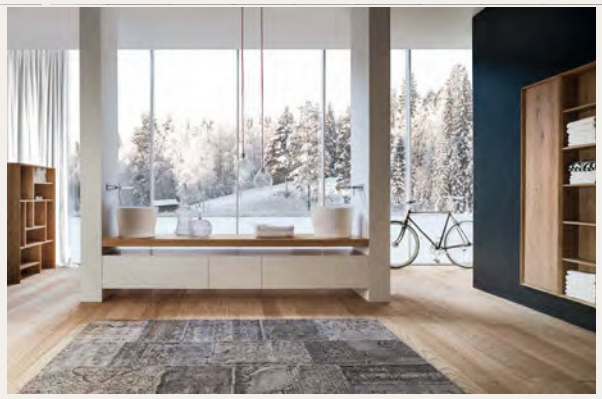

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The ceiling-hung Diva extractor hood by Elica also operates as a light. The rounded designed, which is available in four finishes, with three colour options for the rim surrounding the light, is also available as a wall-mounted version, from £1,500, **elica.co.uk**

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[**01**] 'Victoria' 100cm traditional four-cavity range cooker and induction hob, with AA energy rating, shown in Gloss Cream finish, around £2,400, **smeguk.com** [**02**] Fridge freezer CBNES6256 by Liebherr, A++ energy rated, with icemaker, no-frost technology and Biofresh drawers, from £4,100, **myliebherr.co.uk** [**03**] Jeton kitchen tap with pull-out hose by Kallista, available in nickel silver, black nickel, brushed nickel, or chrome finish (as shown), £966, **kallista.com** [**04**] Plug and Play induction hob by Zanussi, operational through a standard 13-amp electrical power socket, with no need for professional installation, from £480, **zanussi.co.uk** [**05**] Leigh painted ash kitchen by Caple, available in 11 colours, from £11,750, **caple.co.uk** [**06**] Aura Rondine wall or floor tiles from the Contemporary Cement Tiles collection by Bisazza Design Studio, from £133 per square metre, **bisazza.com**

NEWS

Blancoculina-S Duo mixer tap with 360 degree swivel spout, alongside the handmade Blancoattika XL 60 stainless steel sink and 60-T drainer, all by Blanco. Tap from £550; sink from £1,060, drainer from £945, **blanco.co.uk**

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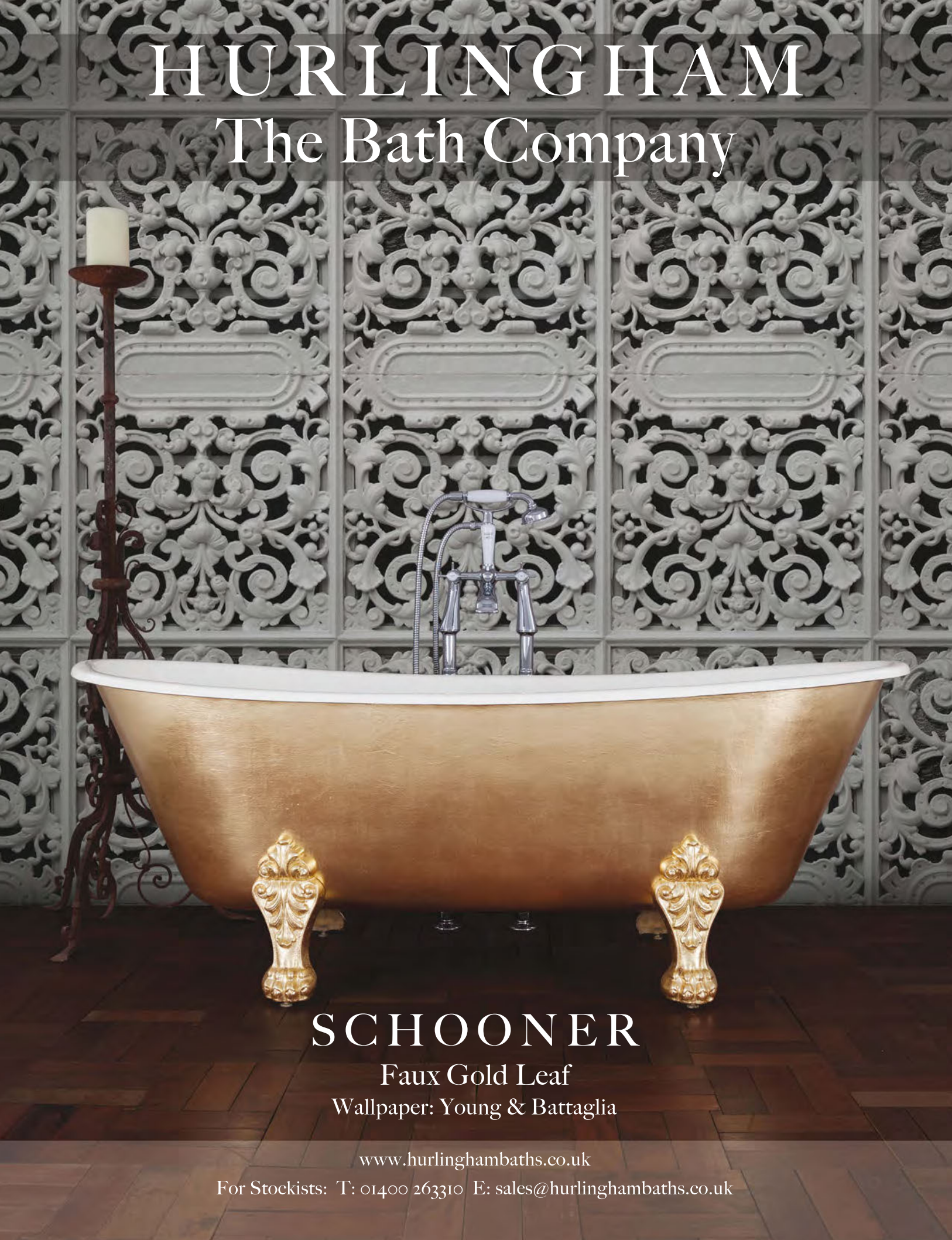
NEWS

The Fiber collection of mosaics from Sicis ranges from square to rectangular in shape and combines materials including glass, mirrored glass, marble, platinum, gold and tesserae. White-on-white Fiber mosaic tiles have been used to cover this Denver bathtub, while the wall is covered in rectangular mosaic tiles to create a stunning waterfall effect, price on request, **sicis.com**

The cone-shaped Cono by Gessi and available from C. P. Hart, combines a naturally curved shape with angular lines to create a freestanding washbasin with a sculptural form. It's made of Cristalplant, a durable solid-surface material, and is also available as a deck-mounted version with matching accessories including a table and soap dispenser. Basin from £3,860, **cphart.co.uk**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[**01**] 'Elegance' wall-mounted showerhead by Vitra in gold finish, also available in chrome finish, from £280, **vitra.co.uk** [**02**] XXL 'Light' steam shower and cubicle by Teuco, with mood-lighting, available up to 1,900x1,300mm, from £19,440, **teuco.com** [**03**] Per Se basin mixer, in 24-carat gold finish with black crystal knob handles, from £2,600, **kallista.com** [**04**] Wall-hung Sfera 54 collection bidet and WC by Catalano. Bidet from £330; WC from £420, **catalano.co.uk** [**05**] Exposed floorstanding bath shower mixer in chrome finish, part of the Georgian Bathroom Collection by Perrin & Rowe, from £933, **perrinandrowe.co.uk** [**06**] Tiempo towel warmer designed by Ben de Lisi and available from Abacus Direct, available in two sizes, in gloss Anthracite or Terra matt finishes, from £399, **abacusdirect.co.uk**

NEWS

The carbon-fibre Vessel bath, designed by Splinterworks and available from West One Bathrooms, now comes as a freestanding version, plus there's a matching washbasin – it's just like the bath but in miniature. The basin may be mounted on a flat countertop or pedestal, £4,200; Vessel freestanding bath £23,760, **westonebathrooms.co.uk**

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smart buy

EDITOR'S tip...

Bathroom lights need to be IP rated for the zone of the bathroom they are installed in, so ask a qualified electrician which IP rating you'll need for each separate light location, before you buy

[**01**] Innovo wall-mounted stainless steel basin mixer in satin finish, designed by Cea available from Laurence Pidgeon, £725, **laurencepidgeon.com** [**02**] Silence washbasin by Cosentino shown in Silestone Blanco Zeus Extreme, price on request, **silestone.co.uk** [**03**] Gotha Platinum Lux floor tiles by Minoli, £80 per square metre, **minoli.co.uk** [**04**] Lago wall-mounted, IP44-rated light for bathroom use, from £170, **astrolighting.co.uk** [**05**] Quill stainless steel radiator by Bisque, £820, **bisque.co.uk** [**06**] Argo floorstanding basin mixer in chrome finish by Eau Couture, £499, **eau-couture.co.uk**

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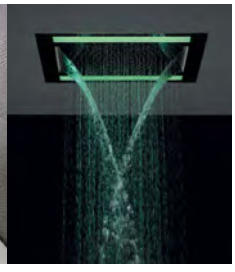

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Marazzi kitchen featured

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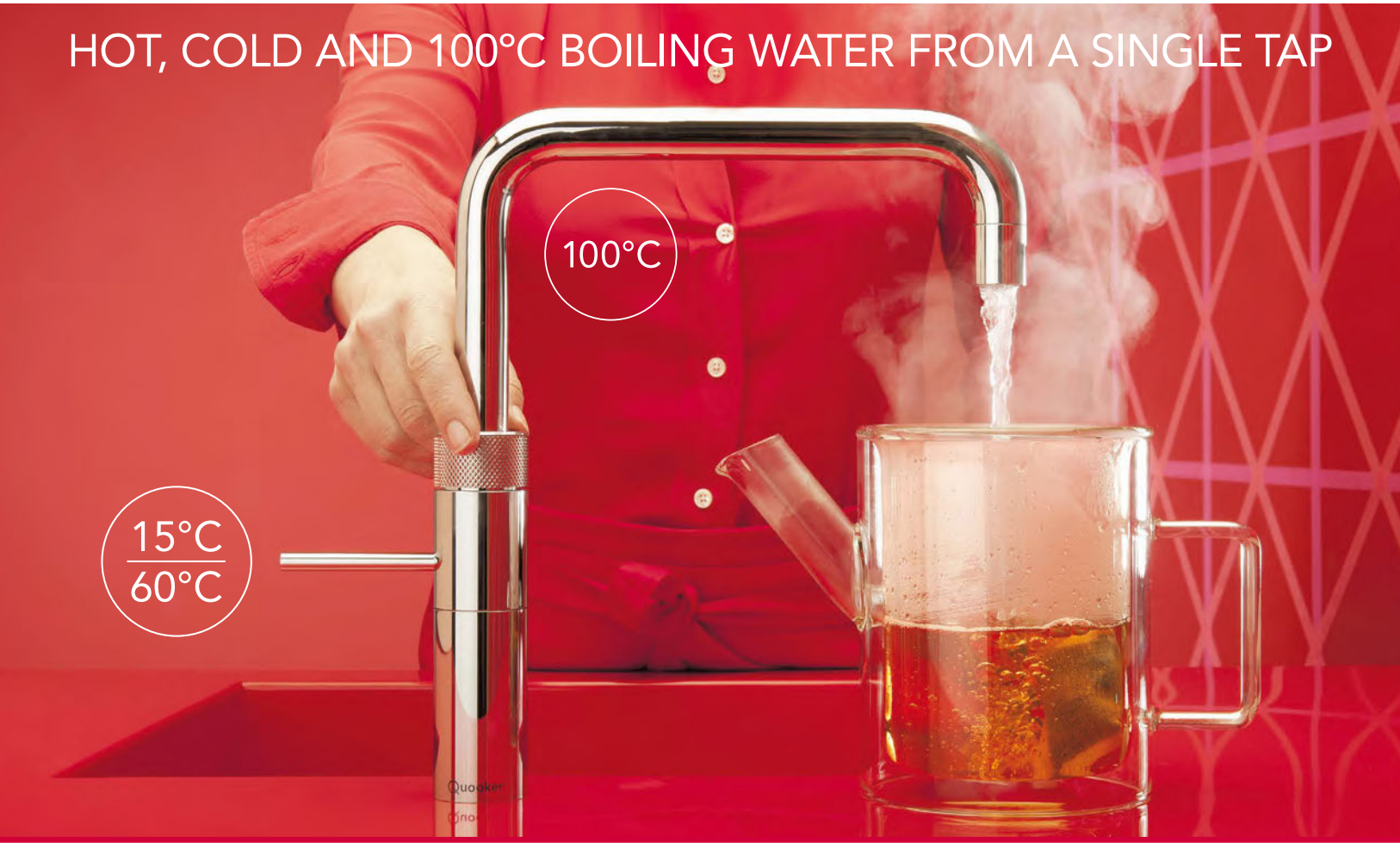

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[**01**] Grohe Red 99°C steaming filtered water, plus standard hot and cold, child lock and CoolTouch, £1,690, **grohe.co.uk** [**02**] Carron Phoenix' Seraphina 100°C boiling water, standard hot and cold, safety button, around £1,050, **carron.com** [**03**] Dornbracht's Tara Ultra up to 93°C steaming filtered water, plus filtered cold, from £1,160, **dornbracht.com** [**04**] Zip's Hydrotap Sparkling All-In-One 99°C steaming filtered water, plus chilled, filtered sparkling and regular hot and cold, safety button, £3,500, **nowzipit.co.uk** [**05**] Franke's Minerva Mondial 100°C boiling water, plus standard hot and cold, safety control, around £1,195, **franke.co.uk** [**06**] Quooker's Fusion 100˚C boiling water, plus standard hot and cold, childproof operation, from £1,150, **quooker.co.uk** [**07**] InSinkErator's 3N1 98°C steaming water, plus standard hot and cold, safety locking mechanism, around £799, **insinkerator.co.uk**

Sensory perfection

The Fourth Wall is a completely bespoke kitchen in terms of size, colour and finishes. This example starts on the left with appliances, cupboards and grids for hanging utensils, in the centre it has an island with appliances and a larder for fresh produce, and to the right there's a media wall with a fireplace and an inbuilt monitor for displaying recipes, selecting tunes from your playlists, browsing the web, streaming movies and watching TV

The trend for minimal kitchens with everything hidden away separates us from the sensory pleasures of cooking and eating, believes Andrew Hays, creative director of Poggenpohl's newest kitchen The Fourth Wall. Packed with luxurious Electrolux Grand Cuisineappliances, innovative furniture and stunning lighting effects, The Fourth Wall incorporates food storage, preparation, cooking, socialising and dining in one high-tech space

There are few things more inspiring than wandering through a market full of colourful fresh food; but once we get home, all too often the food is shut away and forgotten. "The kitchen is the primary creative space in the home," says Andrew Hays, The Fourth Wall, creative director, Poggenpohl, "but modern kitchens don't acknowledge this. Early kitchens were living spaces, celebrating food and the cooking process; but because of the focus on open-plan living, design has been moving towards concealing every element within the kitchen."

To counteract this sterility, Andrew designed The Fourth Wall, a completely bespoke kitchen/dining solution that includes furniture, appliances, flooring, lighting and even a TV and fireplace. He may have been inspired by the past, but The Fourth Wall is very much of the future – one of its most striking features is remote-controlled reactive glass, which turns instantly from clear transparent to opaque black on the larder, wine cabinet and Butler's Pantry.

"With The Fourth Wall," he says, "ingredients, cooking utensils and crockery are visible and I explored the use of intelligent surfaces, in particular glass that transforms seamlessly from transparent to opaque, so that areas of the kitchen can be 'shut down' as required." The glass is used to greatest effect in the

The main pantry has chilled glass shelves and a marble floor. **Opposite page, top:** Charging drawer and media wall. **Centre:** Lighting control instantly transforms the mood from night-time ambience to task lighting. **Bottom:** The Butler's Pantry with its reactive glass has room inside for catering staff and a two-way drawer in the sideboard that is accessible from both the pantry and the dining area

The distressed oak table, chairs, upholstered stool and armchair are all part of The Fourth Wall. The Butler's Pantry, which acts as a bar and coffee station, is shown with the reactive glass turned to black, while the glass surrounding the three-zone temperature-controlled wine room, can also be darkened or turned opaque as required

Butler's Pantry, an area intended to be used (possibly by staff) as a servery, bar and coffee point, but can be darkened to conceal dirty dishes at the end of the evening. The Butler's pantry also has a two-way drawer in the sideboard, accessible from the dining room as well as from inside the pantry.

The app-controlled mood lighting is also thoroughly futuristic: "The lighting control system was specifically designed for the kitchen and incorporates adjustable colour temperature so that the lights can be adapted to show different ingredients at their best," explains Andrew. "For instance, fish and vegetables look freshest under cool light, meat in warm light. Grow lamps have also been installed in one corner of the kitchen to sustain a lemon tree and garden herbs, ensuring fresh ingredients are always to hand."

At the heart of the kitchen is the dramatic island, running directly through into the larder with its chilled glass shelves. "The Fourth Wall larder is illuminated, so that as we cook we are surrounded by and inspired by ingredients kept fresh with perfect humidity control," adds Andrew. To add to the appeal of the kitchen to serious cooks, part of the worktop has a marble top for pastry preparation, while an open-shelved preparation bench allows storage for the largest of pots and pans.

"It is a complete re-imagining of the home kitchen that celebrates great food and fresh ingredients," says Andrew. "This is a cook's kitchen but without boundaries." Price on request. **poggenpohl.com**

Andrew Hays, The Fourth Wall, creative director, Poggenpohl

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CALCULATED COUTURE

Like a designer dress tailored perfectly to its wearer, this bespoke kitchen adds a sense of effortless elegance to a new-build Essex home – a look that could only be achieved with the most painstaking attention to the finer details of shape and finish

THE owners

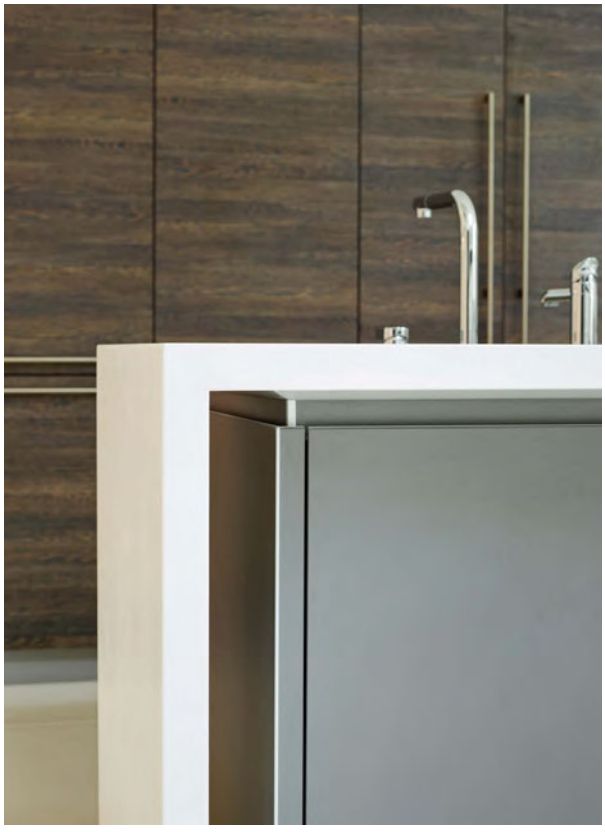
Flower Mills Homes is a developer which concentrates on luxury family properties with a high interior design specification. This six bedroomed, three-storey house with swimming pool at Emerson Park, Hornchurch, is now on the market for offers in excess of £3m.

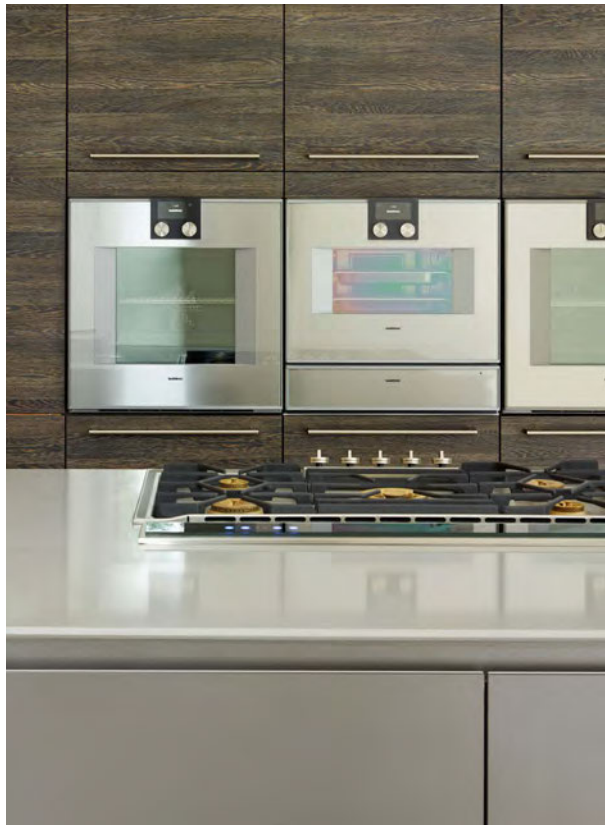
The new-build home was designed to be as bright and airy as possible. The expansive kitchen has full-height windows and direct access onto the terrace with its infinity pool, while the interior lighting can all be controlled via touchpad or smart phone

THE designer

"With such an open space, choosing the correct positioning is vital and we usually aim to preserve as much space as possible without compromising convenience for the user. In this case the kitchen not only had to look good from the room itself, but from above as well, since there were views over the kitchen from the upper level."
Simon Lecomber, sales director, Nicholas Anthony

The whole room has a warm, modern colour palette – the main units are in Silver Brown matt laminate with silver plinths at the bottom, topped with a greyish Kensho Silestone worksurface and a Corian breakfast bar in Cameo White, all elegantly complemented by the textured Golden Oak laminate finish of the tall units and the stainless steel appliances





With 27 square metres of kitchen space to play with, the temptation could easily have been to fill it up with cabinetry; but Simon Lecomber, sales director at Nicholas Anthony, resisted that urge, opting instead to invisibly divide the space, creating a hidden utility room and electronics hub to preserve the clean lines of the main kitchen.

"It was such a big, square room that we created the design to give some shape to the whole area," he says. It's a process that he likens to bespoke fashion: "I am pleased with the fact that we achieved a perfect balance between practicality and vogue style. Features such as the positioning of the island and the mix of handles and handleless units are what I would call 'calculated couture'," he says.

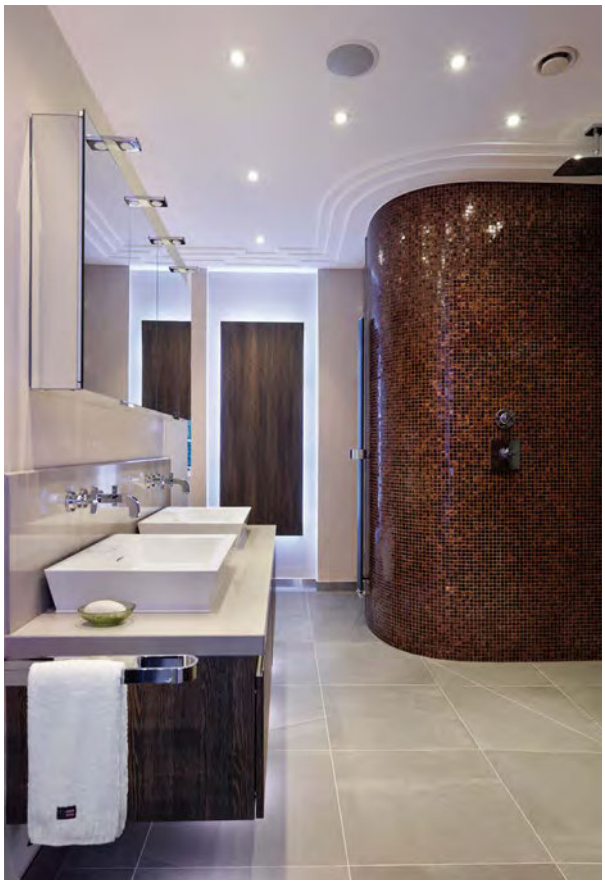
Being a new build there was no client to design for, but the brief from Dave Flower, director of Flower Mill Homes, was clear: "We were looking for clean lines, functionality and uniqueness," he says. "We needed inspiring spaces; after all, the kitchen and bathrooms are the most important rooms in the house. Nicholas Anthony fulfilled all our expectations."

The clean lines and functionality were achieved with a mixture of simplicity and careful detailing. The geometric shape of the Corian breakfast bar mirrors the stairs in the background, while the Silestone worksurface has delicately chamfered edges to give it a feeling of lightness. Meanwhile, the textural oak-look laminate and long feature stainless steel handles of the tall cabinets contrast with the handleless simplicity of the matt laminate island.

"Everything had to be top end," says Simon. "It's a challenge working for Flower Mill as they want the best detailing on everything, but we love working with them because of the quality they demand and expect."

So as not to interrupt the clean minimal lines of the kitchen, the doorway into the utility room is concealed behind twin doors in the line of tall Golden Oak laminated units. This bank of cabinetry adds textural interest to the room as well as providing plenty of useful storage and a home for the main appliances

Each of the six bedrooms has its own ensuite bathroom. Here, the ensuite to bedroom three features glistening black anthracite tiles that absorb and reflect just the right amount of light across the room to produce a relaxing vibe. The tub is the double-ended Stark Rectangular by Duravit which comes with two comfortable headrests. The basin and WC are from Duravit's Vero Collection while the chrome bath and basin taps are by Hansgrohe



With six ensuite bathrooms and a cloakroom to design, the challenge for Nicholas Anthony was always going to be how to make the rooms exciting and individual, while at the same time linking them together with a common design thread. Having worked previously with Flower Mills Homes, Simon knew just how to proceed. "The developer likes to mix light and dark and to have some rooms that are a bit edgy," he explains. With that in mind, the bathrooms range from beiges and truffle colours through to coffee hues and onto deep black – but with the Kensho grey Silestone linking them together.

The material was used on the kitchen worksurfaces, and in the bathroom design it makes feature appearances in most rooms, from the basin shelves in the cloakroom and in ensuite three, to the shelves in the master ensuite WC cubicles. Also appearing in various places is the textural Golden Oak laminate from the kitchen, which works its way into the design as vanity doors and light panels.

"There's a really nice theme running through the whole house," says Simon. "It's quite a masculine looking house, with dark grey bricks on the outside and predominantly neutral colours on the inside."

The master bedroom ensuite is designed for two – it has twin Hansgrohe Raindance shower heads, two basins and even two WCs, each concealed by smoked glass doors behind the mosaic pillars surrounding the shower. The mosaic tiles glimmer as the ceiling light passes through running water

THE details

Developer, Flower Mills Homes **flowermills.co.uk**

Kitchen
Kitchen design by Simon Lecomber, sales director at Nicholas Anthony, including island unit in Silver Brown matt laminate with silver plinths, topped with Silestone Kensho worktop and Cameo White Corian breakfast bar and tall units in Golden Oak wood-look laminate, featuring hidden door to utility room **nicholas-anthony.com**

Westin Lisser downdraft extractor **westin.co.uk**

Gaggenau VG295214 gas hob, DF261161 dishwasher BO450110 single oven, BO450110 steam combi oven, RC462200 fridge, RF463202 freezer, RW464260 wine cabinet, **gaggenau.com**

Franke PKX11055 stainless steel sink **franke.co.uk**

Dornbracht Elio two-hole mixer tap **dornbracht.com**

Zip Hydro DOMBC boiling/chilled water tap **nowzipit.co.uk**

Bathrooms
All bathrooms designed by Simon Lecomber, sales director at Nicholas Anthony, most featuring Golden Oak laminate or Kensho Silestone accents as before

Master ensuite
Duravit Vero basin x2, Starck WC x2 **duravit.co.uk**

Hansgrohe Raindance showerheads x2, Axor Citterio basin taps **hansgrohe.co.uk**

Porcelanosa Fashion Coffee mosaics, Darksand floor and wall tiles **porcelanosa.co.uk**

Ensuite to bedroom three
Duravit Starck bath, Vero basin, Vero WC as before

Hansgrohe Exafill bath and basin taps as before

Porcelanosa Line Anthracite wall tiles, wood effect floor tiles as before

Ensuite to bedroom five
Duravit Starck bath as before

Hansgrohe taps as before

Keuco Royal Reflex basin and Royal Reflex Truffle vanity unit, Royal Universe mirror cabinet **keuco.co.uk**

Majestic Monaco walk-in shower cubicle **majesticshowers.com**

Ground floor cloakroom
Duravit Vero basin and wall-mounted WC as before

Hansgrohe Axor Citterio taps as before

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Living kitchens

Multi-zone living – one open space that flows directly into the next – often needs to accommodate a meeting room, store cupboard, home office, music room, library, workroom, TV room, game console zone, dining, lounging, entertainment space *and* the traditional kitchen area. Yes, all of these relate to the cooking-eating-living environment we call the living kitchen. But can all of these areas really accommodate such disparate functions and goings on and still make for a well functioning home? We show you how…

The U-shaped island in this Liberamente kitchen by Scavolini has a raised section with a sink and hob for standing to prep and cook, and also two lower sections so it integrates with the lower level seating in the living area and is also suitable to sit at. Note how the hood is painted white, so it blends in with the white walls and ceiling. The Baltic blue glossy lacquered pigeonhole unit in the living area is also by Scavolini. Price on request. **scavolini.com**

Are you modernising your home into an open-plan living space and keen to ensure when it's finished you won't feel as though you're always sitting in the kitchen? Thinking of including some comfortable chairs and fully integrated appliances? Well, you've certainly thought about it, but there are other things to consider (and some are invisible), that will make it a space you'll enjoy living in – here are a few to set you on your way…

Low noise: Fridges, freezers and dishwashers can cause annoyance from noisy humming and vibration so check out low decibel appliances. It goes without saying, the washing machine or tumble dryer can be really noisy, so invest in a separate utility room.

Extractors: You won't want pungent smells hanging around come breakfast time, so opt for something discreet like an extractor that doubles as a centrepiece light or an 'invisible' flush-to-ceiling little number. If your ceiling's very high there are models that lower to the ideal height via a zap from the remote, or consider a downdraft – these skulk away discreetly in the base cabinet and pop-up as required.

Hobs: Induction hobs sit flush to the worktop which helps hide the fact that the space accommodates a kitchen – pick a colour to blend with your worktop. They only heat the pan not the room, and once the cooking's finished they are not as hot to touch should someone inadvertently place something on top.

Extras: Also don't forget to also check out sinks with flush covers, telescopic taps and full-height, wide-width cabinet doors which simply slide closed to hide the mess made by cooking – great when entertaining.

This bespoke furniture designed by Kelly Hoppen for Smallbone of Devizes comes in Linear Texture Black Velvet, White Linen and Kelly's Taupe, with dark polished Gris Expo worktops. Circular island with drop level hob. **Below left-right:** Mondrian dresser in Black Velvet; Cocktail Cabinet in Kelly's Taupe; peninsular cabinet in White Linen, with Bianco Carrara marble and solid wood breakfast bar. From £30,000. **smallbone.co.uk**

At first glance the wall-hung, modular Basalt ceramic stone and Macassar wood kitchen by Neil Lerner Designs doesn't appear to be a kitchen at all – ensuring it blends in with the rest of the living area. The wall-hung base units boast integrated appliances, a flush hob and a stainless steel worktop. The upper wall-hung units house under-lighting, adding ambient light to the space and illuminating the worktop below. Continuing the same style into the living area are Tabac Oak shelving, and a drinks cabinet in the same Basalt ceramic stone, also by Neil Lerner Designs, have been incorporated. From £30,000. **neillerner.com**

"I see the trend for futuristic kitchens growing out of the fact that the kitchen is now the high-tech hub of our home. We expect it to be a full-on multi-functional space for cooking, eating, playing and working. Married to the march of technology, this means kitchens are easily becoming the most advanced room in the house." **Neil Lerner,** Neil Lerner Design

EDITOR'S tip...

White, minimal kitchens give off a cool vibe and work well as they counter the heat given off as you busily rush around cooking. However, the living area needs to be warmer, and more conducive to relaxing – use natural woods, textile upholstery (not leather which is cool to the touch), and soft rugs to make it snug

This room uses a short wall that finishes shy of the ceiling to support the high level cabinetry, which acts a room divider separating the kitchen and living areas – giving the benefits of a social open-plan space, while offering a separate prep, cooking and dining area. The handleless Pinova kitchen by Crown Imperial has a contemporary Light grey satin matt-painted finish and integrated appliances. Other coloured finishes available, as is matching Lifespace living room furniture. From £15,000. **crown-imperial.co.uk**

EDITOR'S tip...

Just as hot air rises, so too do cooking smells, therefore in a space like this with a high ceiling, incorporate a powerful downdraft extractor in the island or base units to keep things fresh

A decorative display cabinet in the same painted finish as the kitchen island helps to integrate the kitchen and dining areas, yet being glazed it adds an extra dimension, so it doesn't look as though kitchen furniture has been used throughout the space. The solid ash-framed classic shaker-style Lynton kitchen by K Kitchens boasts brushed nickel 'T-bar' handles and is finished in hand-painted Mussel (tall cabinetry) and Mist (island and individual cabinet). Other hand-painted finishes available. Price on request. **k-kitchens.co.uk**

When your kitchen shares its space with the dining and living areas, consider which materials and finishes will work across all zones. 'Bella' by Aran Cucine is perfectly suited for open living spaces. The contemporary kitchen, which features glossy lacquered fronts and thick 28mm-thick doors, includes open elements that are visible from the living area. Shown here in Glossy white and Cedar coffee finishes. Other finishes available. Price on request. **aranworld.it/en**

Many kitchen companies now also make living room furniture to complement the kitchen cabinetry

The bespoke kitchen in this open-plan space has been designed carefully considering how the user will engage with people in other areas of the room while cooking. The Milan kitchen by Mark Wilkinson, which has been finished in unobtrusive Muscovey paint, includes an island that houses a sink and preparation space, so the user spends most time facing into the room. From £40,000. **mwf.com**

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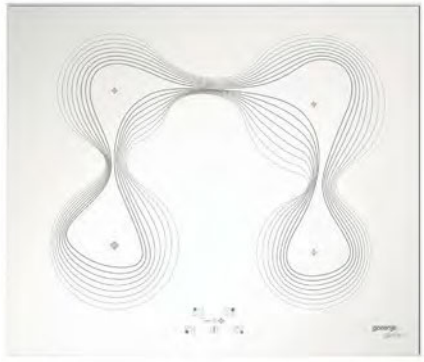

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[**01**] Downdraft extractors are discreet and negate the need for large hoods that can block the view through the space. Bach by Air Uno, £630, **airuno.co.uk** [**02**] John Lewis JLDWS1228 stainless steel dishwasher, awarded the Quiet Mark, an international mark of approval from the UK Noise Abatement Society, £449, **johnlewis.com** [**03**] Skylift extractor by Faber can move up and down, so it can be closer to the cooker when needed, but retract out of site when not in use, £3,000, **faberhoods.co.uk** [**04**] Jewel by Elica operates as an extractor yet looks more like a light, so it doesn't spoil the aesthetics when viewed from the living area, £1,900, **elica.co.uk** [**05**] Stainless steel CBPesf4043, A+++ energy rated fridge freezer by Liebherr, awarded the Quiet Mark, £1,200, **myliebherr.co.uk** [**06**] Karim Rashid IT65KR induction hob by Gorenje, when set flush into a white worktop, it's more akin to a piece of pop art than a hob, and passes virtually unnoticeable, £600, **gorenje.co.uk** [**07**] AEG's Proclean 15-place settings dishwasher operates at just 37 dB(A) on its lowest setting. It's so quiet it has a clock that is projected onto the floor, so you know how long the cycle has to go before it's finished, £800, **aeg.co.uk**

Interspersing pigeonhole units within kitchen cabinetry creates handy display niches and being handleless the cabinetry doesn't scream 'kitchen', so is well suited for living kitchens. This Kalea kitchen by Cesar, which features Cognac Rough Oak cabinetry and stainless steel worksurfaces, boasts cabinets with different heights and widths for a contemporary and unique effect. Other finishes available. Price on request. **cesar.it/en**

ECLECTIC FUSION

A mix of styles and a variety of interesting materials and finishes are the foundation for the kitchen of this grand residence

THE owners

The entrepreneurial owners of this 18th-century, Georgian residence in Chelsea wanted an informal, relaxed style to come home to after spending all week in the confines of their ultra modern, heavily glazed, linier city centre offices. Their home is very much their own private space, catering for just them and occasional visits from friends and family.

With 15,000 square foot of space covering eight bedrooms, a dressing room, drawing cum anteroom, dining room, study, swimming pool, gym, sauna, kitchen and a Grade II Star listed status to contend with, the total refurbishment of this property was no small undertaking.

However, Kaizen Furniture is no stranger when it comes to translating bespoke furniture concepts for grand projects. Working with internationally renowned designer Nicky Haslam, the company produced custom made furniture that answered the clients' brief and satisfied their individual tastes and requirements.

A design was required that blended traditional styling with some contemporary accents. Furthermore, the homeowners had requested a theme of luxury and opulence using a wide variety of materials thus ensuring that their large, 45 square metre kitchen space would be visually captivating.

Bog Oak has been combined with matt lacquered finishes to give the required blend of traditional and contemporary styling; particularly on the island unit. Elsewhere, the company made individual pieces of freestanding cabinetry with exquisite detailing. One example is the armoire created to conceal a fan coil unit, it is covered in vellum and pure silk velvet with custom made, leather wrapped handles.

Worktops in basalt and a sink carved from one single piece of basalt together with the kitchen's traditional cabinet making construction all conspire to give this kitchen a feeling of substance and sturdiness that belongs to a bygone era and which is certainly befitting such a grand, period home.

This kitchen has details, finishes and textures in abundance. However, this is not a kitchen project that falls victim to style and form over function. The kitchen embodies plenty of worksurface area, cupboard and deep drawer storage as well as the latest Sub-Zero and Wolf appliances

"True bespoke designers and manufacturers should never be afraid to explore material combinations and finishes. With Nicky's creativity and our bespoke manufacturing know how, we were able to create something totally unique – the very essence of a true bespoke service."

Stephanie Hope, sales and marketing manager, Kaizen Furniture

THE designer

Nicky Haslam is one of Britain's most respected and celebrated interior designers. He is an author of several books on interior design and writes on the subject for the leading national press. His London-based design firm, NH Design has created interiors for an enviable client base as well as producing interior décor for some of the ritziest parties and celebrations of our time.

THE details

Bespoke furniture manufactured by Kaizen Furniture **kaizenfurniture.com**

Nicky Haslam designer **nh-design.co.uk**

Timothy Hatton Architects **thal.co.uk**

LTS Refurbishment **ltsr.co.uk**

Range cooker similar to: Wolf 48" dual-fuel range cooker **subzero-wolf.co.uk**

Taps similar to: Perrin & Rowe Mimas 4846 single lever mixer with C spout and rinse **perrinandrowe.co.uk**

Bosch DHL535BGB integrated extractor hood, silver metallic **bosch-home.co.uk**

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Light pours out from behind the cabinetry subtly illuminating the Unique Black Slate handleless kitchen by Eggersmann. The stripped-back minimalist kitchen, which boasts a recessed sink and flush black induction hob set into its inky black worktop, is made of Black Brazilian slate. From £25,000. **eggersmann.com**

The dark side

Have you ever ventured outside at dusk when there isn't a cloud in the sky? Maybe you've noticed the horizon with its rich yet soft colours that twilight brings, as the wind ceases and stillness descends? For a sophisticated interior forget play-it-safe beiges and neutrals which some liken to porridge (Who? Me?), and turn to deep, dark colours, with a hint of something that's only just there, like anthracite grey with the slightest tinge of purple or touch of burgundy – just the subtlest tint, so you wonder if you can see it at all. Be moody, sullen and indulgent. More reminiscent of the peace and tranquility of Chopin's Nocturnes than the warlord Darth Vader – so don't be afraid, (we'll hold your hand) come with us as we cross over to the dark side…

And not a light sabre in sight…

UTOPIA LOVES

Muted tones and minimal direct sunlight are combined to create this dramatic, industrial-style kitchen. The Diesel Social kitchen by Scavolini features cabinetry and worktops in Ruxe Grey knotted oak, with Air Conduit One hoods and Archive handles in Drip Metal steel. A steel maid trolley finished in Yellow Tempera adds an exciting pop of colour. Price on request. **scavolini.com**

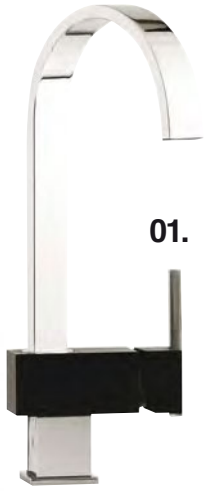
EDITOR'S tip...

This theme is all about mood and sophistication, however the kitchen can be a dangerous place with sharp knives, hot pans and scalding water, so you will also need brighter lighting to be able to see what you're doing when you're actually cooking. So if you're serious about moving over to the dark side, install a good lighting control system. Then pre-select different lighting scenes, so you can instantly create the lighting and mood you desire.

Sitting in the shadows against a jet-black wall these dark kitchen storage units by Doca are completely camouflaged while shut. When the six-door sliding system is opened the pair of Tall Units bathe the room in light. The stainless steel cabinetry, in Ideco mirror finish, boasts soft-close aluminium drawers with a brushed aluminium finish, and glass and chrome fixed and pull-out interior rack shelving. Tall units from £3,000. **docauk.com**

This subterranean kitchen embraces its basement surroundings. Dishes and glassware sit in the shadows, readily accessible upon open shelving, while the light champions the highly reflective metal appliances. The Pro 48 fridge freezer by Sub-Zero, which is the largest residential fridge freezer available in the world, is made of stainless steel and boasts a glass door. It is complemented by Wolf's stainless steel Dual Fuel Range, which features two self-cleaning ovens. ICB648PROG fridge freezer, £23,500; ICBDF484CG range, £16,380. **subzero-wolf.co.uk**

WOLF



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[**01**] Astracast Indus Single lever directional tap in chrome finish with Volcano Black handle, £159, **astracast.com** [**02**] Corian, a durable solid surface material, worktop in Deep Black Quartz by Dupoint, from £310 per linear metre at 13mm thickness, **corian.co.uk** [**03**] Fridge freezer CBNPgb3956 by Leibherr with black glass door and silver sides, A++ energy rated, around £1,400, **myliebherr.co.uk** [**04**] Electrolux Anthracite steel EN3488MOA fridge freezer, £900, **electrolux.co.uk** [**05**] Cast Line wall-mounted extractor hood with functional shelf by Beko, £880, **beko.co.uk** [**06**] V-Zug GK56TIMS black glass induction hob with five cooking zones that adapt to the size of the pan, from £2,160, **vzug.co.uk** [**07**] Aspekt single bowl inset sink in Black Metallic granite by Abode, £249; with Linear Nero Monobloc Tap, £218, **abode.eu**

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This suave, contemporary bathroom set in an urban apartment is in perfect harmony with the city at night. The midnight glow of the metropolis floods through the floor-to-ceiling windows softly illuminating the space. Dark surfaces and furniture have been incorporated to complement the subdued style. The Monolith Plus sanitary module in black by Geberit, shown here with the Geberit Aquaclean WC, has a discreet light that dispels the need to switch on the light in the middle of the night – making it the perfect addition for the bathroom. Sanitary module, £1,700. **geberit.co.uk**

EDITOR'S tip...

Before opting for a low level lighting scheme in the bathroom ensure the floor is level with no steps, rugs or furniture to trip over. Here the occasional table is white, so it shows up in the dim light. Also have the option to flick a switch for bright lighting at times when it's needed.

The Lighting has been carefully considered in this bathroom, so that at dusk the room creates a calm, warm atmosphere. The Twenty Light collection bathroom, by Modulnova and available from DesignSpace London, includes the Surf freestanding bath, made of Tecnoril, a non-porous acrylic polymer. It also has a melamine vanity unit in Beige Tornabuoni finish and matching worktop with inset Tecnoril basins and Roundline mixer taps in a chrome finish – all softly illuminated by Modulnova mirrors which boast Tonga lighting. Furniture (as shown), £4,990; bath, £9,360. **designspacelondon.com**

This stylish bespoke powder room designed by Dorothee Junkin Design Studio features soft lighting and dark finishes that work together to radiate a sense of luxury. Black and lacquered stone tiles have been used to complement the honed black granite pedestal sink. Price on request. **djds.us**

The wall-mounted bath mixer by Agape is unimposing in both form and colour. Made of aluminium with a black brushed aluminium finish, the unusually shaped tap is intelligently artistic. Aptly named Sen (which in Japanese means ‘line’) the contemporary Eastern design combines simplicity with innovation. The tap is operated by geometric handles that, when not in use, sit flush. Also available in grey. Other matching items available. Price on request. **agapedesign.it/en**

UTOPIA LOVES

Creating a dark space is a bold move; however your choice of products and lighting will enable you to create the atmosphere you require. The Dream Flat chromatherapy shower by Bossini (left) boasts LED lights that pierce through the water while the York Panel Aromatherapy shower (right) will also play music – both allow you to change the mood of the room in an instant. Showers in a chrome finish. Dream Flat shower, from £4,030; York Panel shower, from £4,820. **bossini-ibb.co.uk**

Grey and white have been intertwined so that at night this large bathroom space radiates quiet serenity. The Outline bathtub by Teuco, which boasts Hydroline whirlpool and chromatherapy functions, is fashioned from matt Duralight, an acrylic-based composite material. Matching Outline furniture, with fronts in Pantone 642 Ice, is shown alongside the Outline shower tray and matt ceramic Outline WC and bidet, which complement the Duralight material. Bath from £11,130; furniture (as shown) £5,940; shower tray with screen (as shown) £2,460; WC from £980. **teuco.com**

SPACE ODYSSEY

Futuristic, spacious, glossy and gorgeous, this gadget-filled kitchen could have slipped from the pages of a sci-fi novel

THE owners

Gideon Vickery, owner of a large insurance company, and his wife Eva created a contemporary five-bedroom home on three levels for themselves and their two children, packed with technology and boasting tennis courts, a gym, snooker room, cinema, 10 acres of grounds and a helipad.

The unusual shape of the kitchen island was designed to visually harmonise with the two interconnected circles that form the decorative ceiling feature, the curvaceous shape of which is subtly highlighted by colour-changing LED lighting

Some people look at their house as a stepping stone on their journey. Gideon and Eva Vickery are confident they have arrived – their contemporary property in Norfolk was designed to their own specification, including a £155,000 kitchen created by Shane Stewart, senior design consultant at Pedini London. "They are not looking to move again," says Shane. "This house is not going to be for sale."

As they are planning on staying long term, the couple were prepared to invest – they spent £50,000 just on appliances, mainly from Gaggenau. "Eva is very into cooking and baking," says Shane, who had to factor in almost every appliance imaginable, from the latest zoneless induction hob and downdraft extractor to a teppan-yaki, integrated coffee machine, wine cooler, warming drawers, smoothie maker and even a Champagne chiller. "I wrestled with the design for a month in order to get in everything they wanted," says Shane.

The space was large, with high ceilings, which Shane lowered to create a feature above the expansive island – originally he had intended it to hold a curved ceiling extractor, but when the Vickerys fell in love with downdrafts the shape was retained and illuminated with LEDs to give visual interest and stop the size of the space becoming overpowering.

"The central island was the 'hub' of the design, and I wanted to give them a space age feel with an organic nature," says Shane, who softened the stark white of the vast Corian-topped island with cladding in golden-coloured Camisco oak veneer – a material which also features on the tops of the frosted glass up-and-over wall units. The rest of the cabinetry was given a high gloss painted finish in Signal white that contrasts elegantly with the aluminium plinths. Shane is delighted with the result: "The feel is up-to-date, organic, a dream to cook in and great for socialising."

Right: The Pedini kitchen is full of clever detailing to give it that clean-cut, contemporary, high-tech finish. **Clockwise from top left:** The edge of the Corian island has a hand-rail style finish which has built-in waterproof LED lighting; the area is kept clean and tidy by every item having its own special place including utensils; working in the kitchen is easy thanks to the ergonomic arrangement of storage and appliances, for example, the pans are all neatly available under the zoneless Gaggenau induction hob; the Zip Hydrotap is another of the many advanced appliances that were specified for the kitchen, dispensing boiled and chilled filtered water, shown here alongside the LED-lit Gessi Just Pull Out tap

PEDINI

"LED lighting is hidden in the worktop edges and around the circular ceiling features, giving the room a completely different look after dark; perfect for parties."

Shane

The massive sweep of the island and the worktops around the sides of the room are all made in clean, hygienic white Corian, with an LED underlit handrail around the edge. The two small circles in the island are pop-up electrical sockets

THE designer

"Don't be afraid to use texture in your kitchen design as this can create some great effects. Matt and gloss work well as do textured worktops, and even stone finished doors are possible. And don't forget the lighting – a kitchen with a well-designed lighting scheme can look a million dollars, but make sure your task lighting is sufficient."
Shane Stewart, senior design consultant, Pedini London

The finishes in the kitchen are all sleek and easy to keep clean, a necessity as the couple have a 12-year-old and a newborn baby. There's a mixture of wood and high gloss paint on the cabinetry, aluminium plinths, Corian worksurfaces and porcelain floor tiles

THE details

Kitchen design by Shane Stewart, senior design consultant at Pedini London, including Pedini Integra cabinetry in gloss Signal white and Camisco oak veneer, with frosted glass display doors, aluminium plinths and silver mirrored splashback; large island and feature ceiling **pedinilondon.co.uk**

Gaggenau VL414110 downdraft extractor with two external fans, CX480111 zoneless induction hob, BO470110 single oven x2, BS471110 combi steam oven, BM450110 combi microwave, VP414110 teppan-yaki, RB491200 fridge freezer, RC472220 fridge, RW404260 wine cabinet, CM450110 coffee machine, DF460162RF dishwasher x2, WM260161 washing machine, WD260101 tumble dryer **gaggenau.com**

Zip HydroTap Compact2 **nowzipit.co.uk**

Gessi Just Pull Out LED tap x2 **gessi.co.uk**

Kaezen Kaelo Iceless Champagne Chiller **kaezen.com**

Kohler 8 Degree sink, Icerock Round sink **kohler.co.uk**

Counter Production custom island top, worktops, bar and breakfast bar in Designer white Corian **counterproduction.co.uk**

Lighting Technologies LED lighting **lightingtechnologies.com**

Evoline pop-up power sockets **evoline.co.uk**

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*three of which are cooking

The new eccentrics

This style isn't necessarily about the weird and wacky, it's about adapting the norm, manipulating the regular and being completely unpredictable. Eccentrics are born not made, so we can only point you in the right direction and help to get your creative juices flowing… then it's up to you to find the most flamboyantly arresting mix you can think of. Use eye-catching, witty combinations, of really rather straightforward items, in an amusing, novel way. You don't need to be as nutty as a fruitcake but it helps…

This stunning shower room is really quite normal, with its classic British-style sanitaryware; normal that is, except for the exceptional mural, which gives the room an alternative edge. The classic Dalby shower by Drummonds, which has exposed chrome-finished pipes and an optional hand shower, features alongside the striking mural, which is protected behind glass. The Naver basin, which boasts a visible waste pipe and two thin legs in a chrome finish, complements the overtly traditional shower. Other showerhead options available. Shower £2,270; basin £2,400. **drummonds-uk.com**

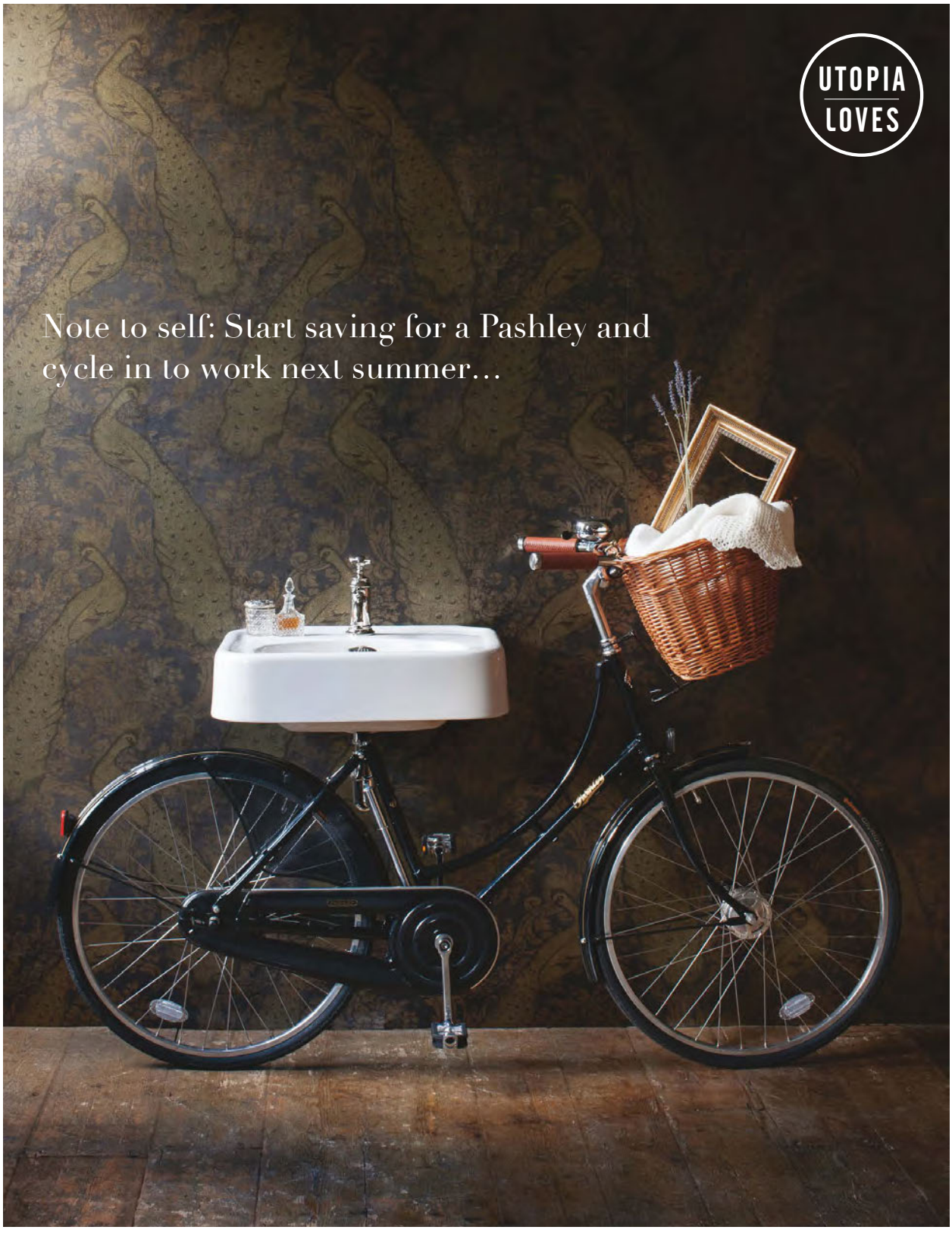
UTOPIA
LOVES

Gothic, intriguing and suitably of-the-now macabre, the limestone Skull tile by Studio H and available from Clé is suitable for use on the wall or floor. Make a statement and just use one, or feature en masse for a dramatic effect. The tile measures 305x305mm, and is part of the Shakespeare Collection, which comprises four other gothic-style images: a crest, cross, crow and crown. Available in metallic gold, metallic platinum, white or black (as shown), £60. **cletile.com**

Right: The charming and characterful Freestanding Shower Temple by Arcade Bathrooms is reminiscent of a Victorian enclosure. The unit is raised from the floor, and features glass on all four sides, which exposes the decorative pipework. The shower tower offers overhead showering, a hand hose and mist bars all hand-finished in nickel. Shower, including air-boosted rain shower and safety glass with easy clean coating, £7,500. **arcadebathrooms.com**

Make a splash with this traditional Usk bath by Drummonds, which has been creatively teamed with the germane photograph of a diver, making an interesting cameo in this delightfully original bathroom. The plain muted walls and floor accentuate the miscellaneous accessories which sit around the freestanding cast iron bath, which is shown here in a hand-painted red finish. Bath £3,210. **drummonds-uk.com**

Think...
OTT
Unconventional
Highly irregular
Individual
Quirky
Non-conformist
Idiosyncratic
Bizarre
Interesting
Aristocratic edge
Offbeat
Antique shop bargains
Unorthodox
Kooky
Sense of humour
Eclectic
Odd combinations
Oxford & Cambridge
Tradition with a twist
Outside the box
Be different
Certainly a talking point
But do you dare?



This peculiar basin embodies the new eccentric style perfectly and will undoubtedly be the talking point in any bathroom.The sculptural piece sees a traditional bathroom basin artistically combined with a genuine Pashley bicycle to make something truly unconventional and quite unique! The wall-hung Arcade Iconic Pashley bicycle and basin by Arcade Bathrooms can be left, or right facing (as shown). Bicycle basin £2,200. **arcadebathrooms.com**

Combining different styles and creating an individual, atypical space is where it's at. The rounded contours of this freestanding 'Hand-Made' washbasin by Falper are evocative of carefully handcrafted pottery – a pristine item juxtapositioned in an apparently, yet artfully dilapidated space. The textured basin, which is combined with a floor-standing mixer tap, is made from white matt Ceramilux, a versatile solid surface material. Also available in a black matt finish and as a deck-mounted version. Matching 'Hand-Made' bath also available. Basin from £1,670. **falper.it**

When you're out and about why not tweet us your eccentric pictures to get some inspiration flowing? **@UtopiaKBMag #neweccentrics**

Pick a finish or colour and dive in. The Nickel Bateau, a hand-beaten copper bath finished in nickel plating, is complemented by a cistern (not shown), towel rail and shower mixer all in a silver nickel finish. The freestanding bath by Catchpole & Rye is also available in a copper finish. Bath from £5,400. **catchpoleandrye.com**

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MOVE ON UP

The owners of this Victorian home in Oxford scrapped their gloomy basement kitchen and commissioned a light, bright multi-functional living area

THE owners

Diane and Neil Thomas live in a large, Victorian home in north Oxford with their two children. They had recently bought the property and were keen to transform the existing gloomy basement kitchen into something much more light and sociable.

The brief was to create a sociable, multi-functional cooking, eating and living space on the ground floor to replace an existing basement kitchen

Cellars are all very well for wine, but when it comes to a pleasant cooking and eating environment, Diane and Neil Thomas wanted to 'move on up' in the world (forgive the Curtis Mayfield pun), so commissioned Kitchen Architecture to move the kitchen of their new home up from the basement to create an open-plan, multi-functional kitchen and living space on the ground floor.

The couple were familiar with the classic, pared-down look of Bulthaup's minimal b3 kitchen, so approached Kitchen Architecture with a fairly clear plan in mind of what they wanted, which was then brought to life by design manager Marcus Watkins. "We wanted the space to be more sociable and multi-functional," says Diane, "and I also wanted room for a big fridge freezer."

It was important to the couple to keep the space looking light and airy, so Marcus created a kitchen with base cabinets, island, splashback and 10mm worktop in bright Alpine white laminate, but with wall cabinets and a bar area on the island in walnut veneer to add contrast. Lighting was designed to create pools of light over the worktop that would reflect light into the kitchen.

"One of the design challenges was the fireplace in the room," says Marcus. "We worked with the shape of the room, centring the island on the bay window and creating two dresser-type furniture blocks either side of the fireplace. One of these contains the large fridge-freezer, the other is a breakfast area that has a series of drawers for cutlery and crockery, a space above that for the kettle and toaster with power and lighting, and room for mugs and glasses, all behind cupboard doors."

The verdict on the finished kitchen is that it works well both practically and visually. "We use the space much more now," says Diane, "as it is much more sociable."

"It wasn't hard to decide on a style as we had already settled on the classic look of the Bulthaup b3 kitchen; we chose Kitchen Architecture as it had a good reputation for the quality of its Bulthaup designs." **Diane**

Sleek and minimal Alpine white laminate is used for the island, base cabinets, splashback and worksurfaces, with walnut veneer on the wall cabinets and breakfast bar area acting as an exciting visual contrast. The design is handleless throughout

"The way that the kitchen is integrated with the dining and lounge spaces blurs the line between the area used for cooking and the more general living space." **Marcus**

THE designer

"Look at the architecture of the space in a period property and try to work with that. Also, where possible, respect existing period features as they can create a great juxtaposition with contemporary kitchen furniture." **Marcus Watkins, design manager, Kitchen Architecture**

THE details

Kitchen Architecture's design using Bulthaup b3 handleless cabinetry and island, tap and undermounted sink; island, base cabinets, splashback and worksurface all in Alpine white veneer, wall cabinets and breakfast bar in walnut veneer, plus bespoke freestanding fridge-freezer cabinet and breakfast cupboard, designed by Marcus Watkins, design manager, Kitchen Architecture **kitchenarchitecture.co.uk**

Siemens LF98BC540B extractor, EC745RC90E gas hob, HB75AB550B single oven, HB84K550B microwave, SN66M053GB **siemens.co.uk**

Gaggenau RB491 fridge freezer **gaggenau.com**

Heals, Original BTC Drop One Ceiling Light **heals.co.uk**

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SIEMENS

COMPETITION

10 lucky readers will win the Life bathroom mixer set from VADO worth £474 each

With sleek lines and rounded edges the stylish Life range combines simplistic design with practicality and functionality making it a must-have for your bathroom.

The Life range incorporates basin, bath and shower mixers as well as showerheads all finished in chrome, which provides an array of choice and versatility. Additionally the Life collection includes matching accessories adding unification to the bathroom.
vado-uk.com

VADO

THE QUESTION
What finish does the Life range by VADO have?

THE PRIZE
10 lucky readers will each receive a Life (LIF-100/CC) mono basin mixer with clic-clac waste and a Life (LIF-137) bath filler

TO ENTER
Answers on a postcard please including your name, address, telephone number and email address to:
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12 Atlas Works, Foundry Lane, Earls Colne, Colchester, Essex, CO6 2TE, or enter online at
utopiamag.co.uk/competitions

Deadline for all entries
31 December 2014

Competition rules
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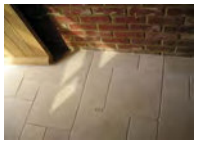
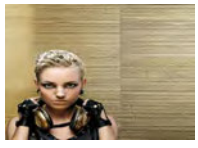

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grohe.com/uk

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KITCHEN & BATHROOM STYLE SELECTOR...

01. The Harrington from Abode is a classically styled dual lever kitchen mixer tap with a modern reflection of the classic themes of vintage design. The architecturally tall, imposing style with stunning swivel swan neck spout will grace kitchens from progressive modern to classical, with a simplicity of form. **abode.eu**

02. JIS Europe is the original 100% stainless steel heated towel rail company. JIS is so confident that it gives a 25-year guarantee on all of its towel rails. Visit the website to see the full range, **sussexrange.co.uk**

03. Design Matters is an independent kitchen studio delivering superbly designed luxury kitchens, expertly fitted, with end to end project management and first class after sales service. Serving discerning clients and private developers across London and the Home Counties since 1992. **dmkbb.co.uk**

04. Design your perfect bathroom on screen with the free Bathroom Styler App. Play with thousands of different bathroom design combinations before speaking to a bathroom retailer and making your final decision. **bathroomstyler.co.uk**

05. Franke's stylish Hydros range has different zones for different food preparation tasks, a unique press-button pop-up waste, a styled drainer on the inset models and a recessed overflow for independent and hygienic water drainage. Prices from £399. **franke.co.uk**

06. Luxaflex has teamed up with visionary artist Julia Vogl and created two stunning limited edition roller blinds. They start from £150 or you can win one by posting an image that inspires your style in their Instagram competition just, tag #myluxaflex **luxaflex.co.uk/myluxaflex**

07. Bespoke designed, hand-crafted vanity units from Barnes of Ashburton are perfect to secret away toiletries and cleaning products to create a clutter-free space. Made from limewood and hand-painted, they feature marble tops and oval ceramic sinks. Made to order from £2,850. **barnesofashburton.co.uk**

01.

05.

02.

06.

03.

04.

07.

NEXT MONTH

Utopia Kitchen & Bathroom

Coming up in February

Kitchens & Bathrooms

Must-have wishlist
Think: iconic design, trendy, celebrated, archetypal, useful, well known, want and need, tried and tested, designer brands, sought after, as good as they look hey good looking!

+

News
Real homes
Appliances
Statement basins

Kitchens & Bathrooms

Light fantastic
Think: illumination, theraputic, eye-catching, mood enhancing, special effects, futuristic, health & wellbeing, changeable hues, kaleidoscopic colour, switched on and off…

Bathrooms

Soak
Think: bathtubs, bathing, whirlpool, bubbles, roll tops, twin baths, curved, spa-like, relaxing, cast iron, acrylic, distinctive shapes, not only in white, lie back and relax…

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